

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS IN S.A. Bulletin No. 30 of 1929.

Drink Bill £2,644,641 (£2,932,627). Per head £4.11.4 (£5.1.10)

A GENERAL VIEW of the records of the consumption of Alcoholic liquors shows that during the six years, 1914-15 to 1920-21, the Drink bill of the State nearly doubled, this being due to the substantial increases in prices, while during that period the quantity consumed per inhabitant and the convictions for drunkenness per 1,000 of population fell considerably. From 1920-21 to 1926-27, the value consumed per head increased only slightly, while there had been a steady increase in the convictions. For the years 1927-28 and 1928-29, decreases are noted in Quantity and Value consumed and the convictions for drunkenness.

VALUES. For the year ended June 30th 1929, the alcoholic drink bill of the State was estimated to be not less than £2,644,641 equal to 4.11.4 per inhabitant, compared with £2,932,627 or £5.1.10 per inhabitant for the previous year and £1,326,185 or £2.19.2 per inhabitant in 1914-15. The 1928-29 drink bill per inhabitant was the lowest for any year since 1918-19.

years

QUANTITIES. The four years prior to 1924-25 had indicated a continuous increase in the quantity of spirits consumed per inhabitant which had been counterbalanced by a continual decrease in the quantity of beer consumed, and this appears also to have been the experience of the Commonwealth as a whole. This however, was reversed from 1924-25 to 1926-27, and for 1927-28 and 1928-29 there were decreases in both spirits and beer, the lowest being since the particulars were first recorded in 1914-15. The quantities consumed per inhabitant for 1928-29, 1927-28 figures being in parentheses, are - Beer 9.57 (10.59) gallons, Spirits .24 (.28) proof gallons, compared with the year 1914-15 - Beer 12.10 gallons, Spirits .42 proof gallons. The total quantities consumed were Beer 5,541,465 (6,100,223) gallons, spirits 140,230 (163,218) proof gallons. The consumption of wine had been estimated each year at .75 gallons per inhabitant.

CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS. During the year 1928 there were 4,946 (5,913) convictions for drunkenness averaging 8.57 (10.35) convictions per 1,000 inhabitants. This is lower than any year since 1922 and much lower than 1914, when there were 5,243 convictions averaging 11.77 per 1,000 inhabitants. These convictions include several against the same person. Distinct persons convicted were 3,645 (4,681) average 6.31 (8.20) compared with the pre-war year 1914 4,073, average 9.14.

NET REVENUE. From customs and Excise Duties in the State for Alcoholic Beverages is given as £869,106 (£1,031,421), decrease £162,315

Summarised, the following are the principal details:-

Year	Drink Bill		Gallons per Inhabitant consumed.		Year	Drunkenness	
	Total	Per Inhabitant	Beer	Spirits		Convictions	Per 1,000 Inhab.
	£	£ s. d.	Galls.	Pf. Galls.		No.	No.
1914-15	1,326,185	2.19. 2	12.10	.42	1914	5,243	11.77
1920-21	2,545,370	5. 3. 8	12.29	.28	1920	3,448	7.08
1926-27	3,096,470	5. 9. 4	11.27	.32	1926	6,029	10.79
1927-28	2,932,627	5. 1.10	10.59	.28	1927	5,913	10.35
1928-29	2,644,641	4.11. 4	9.57	.24	1928	4,946	8.57
Year's decrease	287,986	10. 6	1.02	.04	-	967	1.78

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.

W. L. JOHNSTON,

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GOVERNMENT STATIST &
REG. GEN. OF B.D. & M.